

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to examination of the patent application. Claims 122-160 are pending in the application. Claim 97 has been canceled. New claims 122-160 have been added.

Applicants believe that all of the claims now pending in the application (i.e., claims 122-160) are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues are apparent, or if the Examiner has any suggestions to expedite prosecution, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4010US4.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is

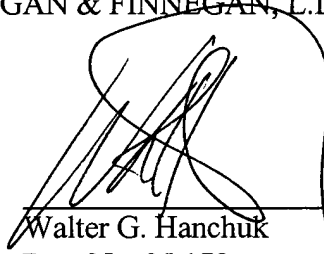
hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4010US4. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 21, 2000

By:



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